

## **REMARKS**

The Office Action dated October 15, 2010 has been received and carefully noted. The following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 1-12 are currently pending in the application and are respectfully submitted for consideration in view of the following remarks.

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 4, and 6-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Asano (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0054531) in view of Kim (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2004/0175006). Claims 2, 3, and 8-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Asano and Kim, further in view of Ito (U.S. Patent No. 7,076,433). Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Asano, Kim, and Ito, further in view of Okuno (U.S. Patent No. 7,035,418). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections as being based on an improper prior art reference, as discussed below.

The cited reference of Kim has an effective filing date of March 5, 2004, which is the date that Kim's U.S. application was filed. Thus, Kim's effective filing date of March 5, 2004 is later than the earliest priority date of the present application. Specifically, the present application has a priority date of November 12, 2003 based on the filing date of the Japanese application, JP 2003-383072. To perfect priority of the present application to November 12, 2003, a verified translation of JP 2003-383072 is submitted herewith. Therefore, the present application has an effective filing date of

November 12, 2003 which is prior to Kim's earliest effective filing date of March 5, 2004.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Kim does not constitute prior art with respect to the present application and cannot be properly used to reject the application under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Since all of the prior art rejections asserted in the Office Action rely on Kim, Applicants submit that all of the rejections are improper and should be withdrawn.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned representative at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,

/Majid S. AlBassam/

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Majid S. AlBassam  
Registration No. 54,749

**Customer No. 32294**  
SQUIRE, SANDERS & DEMPSEY (US) LLP  
14<sup>TH</sup> Floor  
8000 Towers Crescent Drive  
Vienna, Virginia 22182-6212  
Telephone: 703-720-7800  
Fax: 703-720-7802

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Enclosures: Verified translation of Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-383072